



An Assessment of the Social Return On Investment (SROI)

For

The Vine Centre

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1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to present an analysis of the Social Return On Investment (SROI) of the services provided by The Vine Centre. It is not the intention to carry out a detailed cost benefit analysis, rather to outline the financial impact of the comprehensive services provided by the Centre.

A brief history is provided together with an outline of the aims of the Centre in order to provide the context for the analysis.

The analysis includes an assessment of suitable proxies which monetise the benefits to the clients of the various training courses offered, together with the various valuable services provided by the staff and volunteers. It has been based on the Financial year 2017-18.

2. History

The Vine Centre originally started some 30 years ago as a soup kitchen. It grew considerably over the years and in 2012 it moved to its present home on the top two floors of the Aldershot Institute building in Station Road. The building required extensive refurbishment and this was achieved over the next couple of years with valuable assistance of labour and materials by a number of local businesses, but principally Aspire Defence.

3. Aims of The Vine Centre

The aims are to serve the community in Aldershot and the surrounding areas, supporting any who need our help, be they homeless, vulnerable, socially isolated or unemployed.

The Centre offers support to individuals helping to meet the social, mental, physical and emotional needs of clients while also providing support with employment, training, IT skills and catering for a variety of mental health issues.

The aims of the charity are to

- Increase the skills and employability of the centres clients
- Improve their mental health and wellbeing
- Reduce their dependency on substances
- Improve their access to sustained housing, reducing the risk of homelessness
- Reduce the likelihood of clients committing crime

The Centre creates a safe environment, where clients are not judged. Activities are offered which can help clients make meaningful use of their time. Many of these activities help develop essential life skills, including budgeting and IT skills. The Centre aims to reduce their clients' over reliance and dependency on the centres services and encourage them to positively engage and integrate with mainstream society.

On a day to day basis clients are offered support with whatever they need through our 19 services including benefit help, addiction support, anger management, budgeting, mental health support, homelessness and tenancy sustainment and help with finding employment.

4. Analysis

4.1 Services provided by staff and volunteers

Based on the hours worked by each staff member and volunteer, and assessing a realistic commercial rate for the respective service, the total value of these services has been calculated as £359,268.

4.2 Training

The training courses currently offered by the Centre, some of which are funded or part funded externally, include the following:

GASP, Anger Management, Quit Smoking, Budgeting, Art Therapy, Creative Arts, Literacy, IT Course.

An evaluation of the cost of providing these courses externally has shown that their value is £77,200.

The Centre also offers rooms for hire by external training establishments, very often for training the Centre's existing clients. Using a realistic commercial rate for these facilities, the value is estimated to be £9,300.

4.3 Clients into Employment

Much of the work of the Centre is concentrated on getting clients back into work which is provided in the Centre's Job Club. Apart from the obvious benefit to the individual there are considerable savings in Job Seekers Allowance.

In the Financial Year 2017-18, 57 clients were helped back into employment, resulting in savings in JSA of £109,610.

4.4 Provision of Emergency Services

Throughout the year we provided our clients with a variety of emergency services, such as meals, clothing, shower, laundry and emergency funding.

The value of these services is estimated to be £11,789.

4.5 Totals

The following table summarises the values of the various services provided by The Vine Centre over the course of the financial year 2017-18:

Services provided by Staff & Volunteers	£359,268
Vine training	£77,200
Provision of training rooms	£9,300
Clients into Employment	£109,610
Provision of emergency services	£7,428
TOTAL	£562,806

5. Income & Expenditure 2017-18

The total income for the year 2017-18 was £188,293, and total expenditure was £254,213.

A total of £66,128 had been held over as restricted funds, which were then used during the year for the set up costs for Vine Dining* (£56,500) and an IT update (£9,628).

**This is a new social enterprise started in 2017 which has the principal aims of creating work experience and employment for disadvantaged people in the community, and providing funds for the work of the Centre with all profits made. It is expected that this enterprise will start generating such profits from 2018 onwards.*

The net expenditure for the purposes of assessing the SROI can therefore be considered to be £188,085.

6. Summary

This report has outlined the financial impact of the comprehensive services provided by The Vine Centre. Suitable proxies have been assessed which monetise the benefits to the clients of the various training courses offered, together with the various valuable services provided by the staff and volunteers, and the saving of benefits by clients entering employment.

The Social Return On Investment The Vine Centre provides is assessed to be £567,167.

Therefore for every £1 spent the Vine Centre provides a social return of £3